

# HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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NOT TO SCALE

# **TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT**

# Planning Board Meeting of July 19, 2007

Case No./Petitioner: ASDP-76-008 / Mr. and Mrs. Soisson

Subject: ASDP-76-008, Village of Owen Brown, Section 4, Area 1, Lot 506, 6552 Tinker

Round, Tax Map 36, Grid 16, Parcel 241, Sixth Election District of Howard County,

Maryland

Vicinity Map: ASDP-76-008

Request: The request is for approval of an amended site development plan (ASDP) to allow

construction of a front porch which would extend into the 7.5 foot side building restriction line by 1.9 feet in accordance with Section 125.E.4 of the Howard County Zoning Regulations. The subject property is zoned "NT" (New Town), is part of the

Village of Owen Brown Section 4 Area 1 and is subject to FDP-146-A-III.

<u>Location:</u> The subject lot is located on the north side of the cul-de-sac bulb of Tinker Round approximately 140 feet from Malindy Circle.

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Vicinal Properties: ■ To the west is Lot 505 (11,222 s.f.).

To the north and east is Open Space Lot 548.

To the south is Tinker Round.

#### 1. SITE DESCRIPTION:

The subject lot is 8,231 square feet or 0.19 acre in size, is improved with a two story detached house, and is located in a neighborhood of detached houses on individual lots and open space lots. The subject lot and surrounding residential lots are zoned New Town – Single Family Medium Density land use per FDP 146-A-III and are improved with detached houses. The open space lots are zoned New Town – Open Space, Credited land use per FDP 146-A-III. The subject lot derives its vehicular access from Tinker Round, a cul-de-sac County public road with a 50 foot public road right of way that is located along the front of the lot.

### 2. EVALUATION:

In accordance with Section 125.E.4.d of the Zoning Regulations, the Planning Board must evaluate the acceptability of the proposed increase above the allowable lot coverage based on the following criteria:

1. The adjustment will not alter the character of the neighborhood, will not impair the use or development of the adjacent property, and will not be detrimental to the public welfare.

The addition of the front porch would not make this house incompatible with the architectural styles of the neighborhood as there are similar houses in the neighborhood with front porches. Nor would the porch addition make the house out of scale with the 8,231 square foot lot on which it is located. Per the FDP, allowable lot coverage by major structures is 30%. With the porch addition lot coverage would be approximately 18%.

On March 1, 2007 the homeowner received approval from the Owen Brown Community Association to have the porch constructed.

The neighboring property to the east of the subject lot is Credited Open Space Lot 548. A 20' wide portion of this open space lot separates the subject lot from its nearest residential neighbor to the east (Lot 507). Even with the proposed setback reduction, the petitioner's home will be more than 25 feet from the western lot line of Lot 507. As such, the proposed porch addition will not have a detrimental impact on either the adjacent open space lot or the nearest neighbor.

2. The adjustment is needed due to practical difficulties which arise from strict compliance with the FDP and/or results in better design than would be allowed by strict compliance with the development criteria.

The purpose of the porch addition is to enhance the appearance of the home and to provide functional outdoor space. The proposed porch is only 5 feet deep and would extend only 1.9' into the BRL. Constructing the porch any shallower would restrict its functionality. The homeowner also would like the porch to be flush with the side of the house. Since the existing house was constructed only 2 feet from the side BRL, inadequate space is available in which to accommodate such a porch design. The location of the existing home, the proximity of the side BRL, and the shape of the lot all combine to create a practical difficulty for strict compliance.

This file is available for public review at the Department of Planning and Zoning's public service counter, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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3.	RECOMMENDATION:		
	•	rtment of Planning and Zoning recommends to the recommends of the Plan (ASDP-76-008) to allow the addition of	
		Marsha McLaughlin, Director Department of Planning and Zoning	Date

MMcL/crh





